

Message Text

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APPROVED BY AF - AMBASSADOR BOLEN

AF/S: - DKEOGH

----- 119202

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, SF

SUBJECT: SENATE HEARINGS ON US POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT WITNESS IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE CLARK
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 30. HEARINGS ARE FOCUSSED
ON CURRENT US POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA WITH EMPHASIS
ON US BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN ORDER
TO PREPARE FOR HEARINGS WE WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION
ON FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A. EMBASSY'S CURRENT ESTIMATE OF HOW US COMPANIES IN
GENERAL COMPARE WITH OTHER FOREIGN AND SOUTH AFRICAN
FIRMS IN FIELD OF ENLIGHTENED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES;

B. CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF ADDRESSEES IN FURTHERING OUR
POLICY OF ENCOURAGING BETTER EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES;

C. EXTENT OF EMBASSY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER FOREIGN
EMBASSIES REGARDING ENLIGHTENED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES;

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D. WHAT IS CURRENT GENERAL REACTION OF US FIRMS TO RIOTS AND WORK BOYCOTTS? ARE COMPANIES IN GENERAL REPATRIATING OR REINVESTING EARNINGS?

E. HAS WHITE-BLACK WAGE GAP NARROWED OR WIDENED BOTH IN NOMINAL AND REAL TERMS OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS?

F. WHAT IS THE EMBASSY'S READING OF CURRENT BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN OPINION ON ISSUE OF WHETHER AMERICAN FIRMS SHOULD PULL OUT OR REMAIN IN SOUTH AFRICA?

DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF US FIRMS WHICH EMBASSY BELIEVES MIGHT ASSIST US IN PREPARING FOR THE HEARINGS.

ROBINSON

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